**Fostering Student Creativity**

**Faculty Development Summer Workshop**

**Bethel University**

**June 4, 2013**

**Susan L. Brooks**

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School Board Simulation

Bethel University—ENL200 Juvenile Literature

Susan L. Brooks

The scene: A school board meeting in the Maple Hill School District. A large group of citizens has appeared to address the issue of whether *The Giver* should be taught as a whole class book in seventh grade at Maple Hill Middle School. The school district and those that object to the book have followed the procedures set by the school district and have not come to agreement about this book. This school board hearing represents the final decision regarding the book.

*Directions: Choose one of the characters below and enter the forum promoting the point of view of that character. (Be sure to tell us which character you are!) Think about how that person answers our “big three” questions (about story, Truth, and children). Each person should have a main post as well as make at least 5 comments. More than one person can be a character, but try to have a good assortment of characters represented.*

The Players— Mr./Ms. Brown--One of the seventh grade English teachers. Her attitude to this whole controversy is, “I am the professional. You need to respect my right to teach whatever I choose.” She feels *The Giver* is an excellent whole class book for seventh grade.

 Mr./Ms. Crimson--This seventh grade English teacher makes all her decisions based on the health, safety and comfort of the children. She is afraid the book might make some children uncomfortable and does not want to cause any family conflicts. “There are lots of good books out there, “ she says.

Mr./Ms. Black--The third seventh grade English teacher loved the book. She is a strong Christian and feels that the values that the book presents could offer good opportunities in the classroom to talk about right and wrong choices.

Mr./Ms. Greene ---This is the parent who originally brought the complaint to the school. He feels that the book should not be read by seventh graders because he has heard it has euthanasia in it. As a Christian parent, he is deeply concerned about our society’s lack of respect for life and doesn’t think that kids should read a book in which people kill each other.

Mr./Ms. Gold--- This children of this parent recently entered public school from being home-schooled. She feels that it is the parent’s place to talk about these issues with their children and she although she has read the book and discussed it with her child, she doesn’t think it belongs in the classroom because it oversteps the parent’s role.

Mr./Ms. White---This parent is fearful of the continuing influence of the religious right in the public schools. He is an active believer in civil liberties and has said he is against, “Censorship of any kind.”

Mr./Ms. Pinkerton--the principal at Maple Hill Middle School hopes she will wake up tomorrow morning and this whole debate will have been a bad dream. She wants to come to a swift conclusion that will please all her constituents—her administrative bosses, her teachers and her parents. She also wants to emphasize that proper procedures have been followed.

**Bibliography and Resources:**

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**Web 2.0 Tools:**

TwistedSifter.com

Xtranormal—Makes cartoon videos

Pixton—Makes still-life comics

Blabberize—Animates “talking” photos

Fakebook—Creates fake Facebook profiles

Animoto—Easy video tool

VoiceThread—Narrated video tool

Voki—Creates an avatar that you can animate

Timetoast—Creates a timeline

Puppet Pals—Ipad tool that animates puppets to tell a story

Diigo—Online annotation tool

Socrative—Online quiz tool

**Resources from Presentation:**

Gustavus Library Showcase: <https://gustavus.edu/library/facultyresearchassignments.html>

Collaborative Wiki: <http://pseudoscience.wikispaces.com/>

Information about Multigenre Projects: <http://www.wright.edu/~nancy.mack/multigen.htm>

Problem Based Learning Ideas: <http://www.udel.edu/inst/resources/sample-problems.html>

Activity Ideas and Heuristics: <http://www.virtualsalt.com/crebook2.htm>

<http://www.celt.iastate.edu/creativity/techniques.html>



